(viii) Introduction of a new scheme Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendra Yojana as a third tier of postal operations for expansion in postal network in the rural areas.

(ix) Release of Citizen's Charter on 12.7.2001 as a part of providing an open, responsive, transparent administration to citizen's of India.

(d) and (e) To meet the challenge from the Private Courier, number of steps have been taken to strengthen the Speed Post Service:

(i) Its network has been expanded on a two tier basis by opening of 717 States Speed Post Centres at muffusil town and district headquarters.

(ii) Linking 120 major cities and towns on Nation net-work.

(iii) Restructuring of delivery system by creating nodal offices with dedicated delivery staff and its machanization.

(iv) Computerisation of booking and delivery offices for booking Speed Post/Express Post.

(v) Launching speednet to facilitate public to ascertain the position of their speed post articles through internet.

(vi) Providing Free Pick up facilities from the customers premises.

**Cellphone Telephony**

905. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed to start Cellphone Telephony in Jammu and Kashmir and the North-Eastern Region in the larger interest of integrating these regions with the rest of the country; and

(b) if so, the reasons for giving up the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Sir, the Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) is operational, at present in Guwahati and Shillong. Further expansion or fresh start of CMTS is not permitted, at present, by Private Operators as well as Bharat

Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in the Jammu and Kashmir Telecom Circle, North-East and Assam Telecom Circles on security considerations.

**MTNL's decision to provide fund to Maharashtra Krishna Valley Corporation**

906. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MTNL has given Rs. 250 crore to Maharashtra Krishna Valley Corporation recently; and

(b) if so, the terms and conditions of the fund transfer, the justification therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) MTNL has invested Rs.250 crore in the Secured Redeemable Non-convertible Bonds of Maharashtra Krishna Valley Corporation which are unconditionally and irrevocably guaranteed by Government of Maharashtra. This investment was made in May, 2002.

Investment decision of MTNL is based on sound commercial judgement.

Key terms and conditions of this investment are annexed as Statement.

***Statement***

*Details of key terms and conditions of the investment*

| | |
|---|---|
| Interest | 11.5% payable annually |
| Maturity | At the end of 10 years |
| Face/Maturity value of Bonds | Rs. 1 lac |
| Credit enhancement | Unconditional and irrevocable guarantee from Government of Maharashtra for timely payment of interest and repayment of principal on maturity. |
| | Escrow arrangement with State Bank of India for debt servicing. |